

Gosforth Urban District Council
Northumberland.




ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1952.



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OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

<i>Medical Officer of Health :</i>	MADGE HOPPER, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
<i>Senior Sanitary Inspector :</i>	GEORGE STENGER, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
<i>Additional Sanitary Inspector :</i>	GEORGE G. OXLEY, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
<i>Clerks :</i>	Mrs. C. E. RAINE, Miss W. OLIVER.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL
OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the Year ending 31st December, 1952.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report upon the vital statistics and sanitary work of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1952.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population. There was an increase of 90 in the Registrar General's estimate of the total population from 24,500 in 1951 to 24,590 in 1952.

Birth Rate. The birth rate per thousand of the population was 14.6 in 1952 being 0.1 higher than in 1951. The rate for England and Wales was 15.3 per 1,000 population in 1952. The total number of births was 361 in 1952 and 357 in 1951.

The still-birth rate showed an increase to 0.32 per 1,000 population in 1952 from 0.08 in 1951.

There were 8 still-births in 1952 compared with 2 in 1951. The rate for England and Wales was 0.35 per 1,000 population.

Seven illegitimate births were registered in 1952 and 8 in 1951.

General Death Rate. There was a slight reduction in the general death rate in 1952 to 9.2 per 1,000 population from 11.1 in 1951.

The rates for England and Wales were 11.3 per 1,000 population in 1952 and 12.5 in 1951.

The total number of deaths in the Urban District was 227 in 1952 and 273 in 1951.

Natural Increase of the Population. The number of births in excess of deaths in 1952 was 134 ; in 1951 it was 84.

Infant Mortality. The death rate of all infants under one year of age was 24.9 per 1,000 live births compared with a rate of 25.2 in 1951. Both rates were slightly under that of the country generally.

The rate for England and Wales was 27.6 per 1,000 live births in 1952 and 29.6 in 1951.

In both 1952 and 1951 there were 9 infant deaths under one year of age in the District. The number of neo-natal deaths, i.e., deaths occurring during the first month of life was 6 in 1952. Two of these deaths were due to prematurity, two to atelectasis and two to congenital defects.

The increasing scope of the antibiotic and sulphonamide drugs has had a marked effect in curtailing respiratory and gastro-intestinal infection in young children.

The three infant deaths occurring after the first month of life and within the first year were all due to Broncho-Pneumonia as a primary cause.

Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age. There were no deaths from this cause in 1952 compared with one in 1951.

Maternal Mortality. There were no maternal deaths registered in 1952. The rate for England and Wales was 0.72 per thousand total (live and still) births.

Individual Causes of Death. The total number of deaths in 1952 was 227, there being a decrease of 46 on the number of deaths registered in 1951.

Deaths from heart and circulatory diseases rose to 113 from 103 in 1951, the most noticeable increase being in those from "coronary disease, angina" with an increase of 8 deaths during the year.

The number of deaths from "vascular lesions of the nervous system" showed a considerable decline from 41 in 1951 to 23 in 1952.

Deaths from "malignant neoplasm" showed a slight increase to 43 in 1952 from 37 in 1951 and 47 in 1950.

Those classified as due to "malignant neoplasm of the lung, bronchus" increased by 7 from 4 in 1951 to 11 in 1952.

The number of deaths from "malignant neoplasm of the stomach" remained at 6 in both years.

There was a marked decline in deaths from respiratory diseases generally to 8 in 1952 from 25 in 1951 and 32 in 1950. Those classified as due to Pneumonia decreased by four and those from Bronchitis by 13. No deaths from Influenza were registered in 1952 compared with 4 in 1951.

Two fatal "motor vehicle" accidents were registered in both years.

There was a very welcome decrease in the number of deaths classified as from "all other accidents" from 4 in 1950, 9 in 1951 to one in 1952.

Four cases of Suicide occurred in 1952 and two in 1951.

Tuberculosis. The mortality rate for all forms of the disease again showed a marked decrease on that of previous years.

The rate for this district was 0.12 per 1,000 population in 1952, 0.28 in 1951 and 0.62 in 1950. The rate for England and Wales was 0.24 per 1,000 population in 1952, 0.32 in 1951 and 0.36 in 1950.

Three deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered in 1952 and one from other forms of the disease, whereas in 1951 there were 5 deaths from Pulmonary and 2 from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and in 1950, 12 deaths from Pulmonary and three from Non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

The incidence of Tuberculosis showed an increase of 6 primary notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and of 3 of the Non-pulmonary forms.

Forty-one new cases (34 Pulmonary and 7 Non-pulmonary) were notified during 1952. These comprised 27 primary notifications and 7 inward transfers of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

In 1951, 35 cases were notified (31 Pulmonary and 4 Non-pulmonary) comprising 21 primary notifications, 8 inward transfers and 2 cases returned to the register.

During 1952, the incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in males decreased from 22 in 1951 to 17, while in females it rose to 17 from 9 in 1951. The most noticeable increase was in the 20 to 25 years female age group, 8 cases (including 3 inward transfers) in this group being notified in 1952 compared with none in this particular age group in 1951. This age group is regarded as being especially at risk.

In the notifications of the Non-pulmonary form a similar though much slighter increase in incidence was observed in the number of female notifications from two in 1951 to 6 in 1952.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES - PREVALENCE AND CONTROL.

The notifications of these diseases are set out in a separate table of the report.

The total number of infectious diseases notified during the year was 497 compared with 608 in 1951.

The figure of 608 in 1951 included 248 cases of Chicken-pox which was not a notifiable disease in the Urban District after that year.

Fewer cases of Whooping Cough were notified in 1952 ; there were 78 notified in that year and 120 in 1951.

The incidence of Measles showed a bi-ennial increase to 331 cases notified in 1952 from 164 in 1951 and 261 in 1950.

Fifty cases of Scarlet Fever were notified in 1952, compared with 28 in 1951, and 34 in 1950. This conformed to a slight general increase in incidence in 1952.

There was one case of Diphtheria notified in 1952, none in 1951, but one, unfortunately a fatal case in 1950.

The case in 1952 was one of a child of 5 years who had been fully immunised. The strain of bacillus isolated from the throat in this case was a Diphtheroid bacillus with a typical diphtheria toxin. The case had to be regarded as one of true Diphtheria although the child had a mild illness lasting only three days. As the organism was still present in the throat several weeks afterwards, the tonsils which were unhealthy, were removed and the throat quickly became clear.

No case of Dysentery was notified in 1952 compared with 18 in 1951.

During the year, five cases of Poliomyelitis were notified ; one occurred in May, three in July and one in October. All were paralytic in type. In one case the attack was an extremely severe one. The patient, a boy of ten, was quickly removed to hospital and was in an iron lung soon after admission. Unfortunately he died after approximately eleven months in hospital.

The four other cases were of a mild type. One patient became ill while on holiday in Germany.

A case of suspected Food Poisoning was notified in 1952 but was not confirmed.

The number of cases of Pneumonia notified was 25 compared with 24 in 1951.

One case of Infective Encephalitis following Measles was notified. The child was admitted to hospital and after 16 days was discharged and able to walk without support.

A case which proved to be an isolated one of paratyphoid was notified. Contacts were kept under surveillance until negative stool specimens were obtained.

Immunisation against Diphtheria. Immunisation is carried out at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre (children 0—5 years), at the schools (5—15 years), and by the General Practitioners of the District.

At December 31st, 1952, 90% of the child population of the Urban District had been immunised at some time during their lives compared with 87% in 1951 and 86% in 1950.

The percentage of immunised children under five years was 77% in 1952, 71% in 1951 and 77% in 1950.

The percentage of immunised children 5—15 years of age rose slightly in 1952 to 98% from 97% in 1951 and 96% in 1950.

During the year 1952, 342 children received a primary course of immunisation, 330 (0—5 years), and 12 (5—15 years) and 460 received a reinforcing injection.

The following are some extracts from a recent communication from the Ministry of Health :—

“ During the last twelve years over ten million children have been immunised. The number of deaths has fallen from a yearly average of some 2,800 in 1930—40 to about 30.

These are matters for congratulation but we must never forget that the elimination of this disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation.

At least 75% of babies should be immunised before the end of the first year of life. During the first half of 1952, this figure was only 31% and it is hoped that it may be greatly improved during 1953.

A sustained effort of persuasion is certainly needed directed to each generation of new mothers as the great majority of parents nowadays have never seen or heard of a case of Diphtheria and are more afraid of the illnesses they know than of the dangers of diphtheria.”

Whooping Cough (Prophylaxis). Eleven children received a course of injections with Whooping Cough vaccine and seven a course of injections of combined Whooping Cough and Diphtheria prophylactic.

Vaccination against Smallpox. In 1952 there were 166 primary vaccinations and 63 re-vaccinations compared with 159 primary vaccinations and 83 re-vaccinations in 1951.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

Hospitals. There are two hospitals in the Urban District, the St. Nicholas Hospital for the treatment of mental diseases and the Sanderson Orthopaedic Hospital. Both are controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

Ambulance Service. This service under the control of the Northumberland County Council has a station at Wideopen which covers the Urban Districts of Gosforth and Longbenton (with the exception of West Allotment), and the adjacent parts of the South Area and works in conjunction with the Newburn and Ponteland stations. Up to October 31st, 1952, there was a station at Gosforth but on November 1st, the Gosforth and West Moor stations were amalgamated and operated as one station at Wideopen.

There are 12 driver attendants, one driver supervisor, 6 ambulances and one sitting car at the Wideopen station.

During 1952 (up to October 31st) ambulances of the Gosforth station made 3,462 journeys, carried 8,984 patients including 1,076 stretcher, 410 accident and emergency cases and did a total of 60,969 miles.

During the last two months of the year ambulances of the Wideopen station made 829 journeys, carried 3,576 patients of whom 513 were stretcher, 144 accident and emergency cases and did a total of 24,080 miles.

Home Help Service. In 1952, 167 cases resident in the Urban District were served by Home Helps for varying periods. The cases included 50 of illness, 49 aged and infirm people, 43 confinements, 12 following operation or discharge from hospital, 4 cases of accident, 3 blind persons and one paralysed person, 3 cases of tuberculosis and 3 problem cases.

Home Nursing and Midwifery. The service of domiciliary nursing and midwifery is administered by the County Council. There are four nurses resident in the District.

Maternity and Child Welfare Service. The service is administered by the County Council. Regular sessions are held at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, Church Road, Gosforth, for babies, children and expectant mothers, and for dental treatment and the treatment of eye defects and skin diseases, and for Ultra Violet Ray therapy.

Housing. The number of applications for Council houses was 1,293 at the end of 1952. Since 1944, 1,078 Council houses had been built and occupied ; 119 of them being erected during 1952. Six applicants with a case history of tuberculosis were given more suitable housing accommodation during 1952.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. Two milk samples were found to contain Tubercle Bacilli. One sample was from milk produced within the District and in this case the cow was removed from the herd and slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938. The other sample was from milk produced outside the District. Requisite action was taken by the Medical Officer of Health of this neighbouring district and two further samples proved negative.

National Assistance Act, 1949. Section 50, Burial or Cremation of the Dead. No action was necessary under this section.

Section 47. Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. Six cases were investigated under this Section but no formal action was necessary. The County Welfare Department found accommodation in one of their homes (Part III accommodation) for three old people.

Forty home visits were paid by the staff of the Health Department.

Sanitary Circumstances in the Area. The details under this section have been compiled by Mr. Stenger, Senior Sanitary Inspector.

In conclusion, may I express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council's Health Committee for the great interest they have shown in the work of my department, and to the Senior Sanitary Officer and the staffs of the Health and other departments for the assistance afforded me throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M. HOPPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Particulars of District.

Area (in acres)	1,739
Registrar General's estimated population.. ..	24,590
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books	7,432
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£935
Rateable Value at 31st March, 1952	£231,928

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Males	Females	Total.
Live births (legitimate) ..	181	173	354
Live births (illegitimate) ..	4	3	7
Still births	5	3	8
Deaths	124	103	227
Birth rate per 1,000 population .. .. .	..	..	14.6
Still birth rate per 1,000 population .. .. .	..	..	.32
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population .. .. .	..	..	9.2

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

There were no maternal deaths.

Death rate of infants under 1 year.

All infants per 1,000 live births	24.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	22.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births	2.7

Deaths.

Deaths from Malignant Diseases (all ages)	43
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Deaths from Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea (all ages)	1

CAUSES OF DEATH.

(taken from the Registrar General's Return)

	Males	Females
ALL CAUSES	124	103
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	2	1
Tuberculosis (other)	—	—
Syphilitic disease	2	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	11	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	10	10
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
Diabetes	2	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	11
Coronary disease, angina	21	21
Hypertension with heart disease	3	3
Other heart disease	28	28
Other circulatory disease	5	4
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	3	1
Bronchitis	4	—
Other diseases of the respiratory system	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformation	—	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	8
Motor vehicle accidents	2	—
All other accidents	1	—
Suicide	2	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—

**TABLE OF BIRTHS & DEATHS FOR THE PAST 20 years
(1933-1952) compared with rates of England and Wales.**

Year	General Death Rate		Infantile Mortality Rate		Birth Rate	
	Gosforth	England & Wales	Gosforth	England & Wales	Gosforth	England & Wales
1933	10.27	12.3	27.7	64	11.8	15.0
1934	9.51	11.8	47.6	59	11.4	15.4
1935	9.8	12.1	73.5	57	11.4	15.3
1936	10.6	12.1	76.9	59	12.7	15.4
1937	11.4	12.4	42.9	58	12.9	15.5
1938	11.0	11.6	32.4	53	13.6	15.7
1939	9.78	12.1	18.0	50	13.4	15.5
1940	11.24	14.3	64.4	55	13.6	15.1
1941	10.0	11.6	50.2	53	11.2	15.7
1942	9.47	11.6	13.6	49	14.4	16.3
1943	10.7	12.1	24.1	49	16.4	17.0
1944	10.7	11.6	29.6	46	18.2	18.1
1945	13.1	11.4	36.2	46	16.0	16.5
1946	10.6	11.5	22.8	43	17.6	19.6
1947	9.1	12.0	23.6	41	18.7	21.0
1948	9.9	10.8	24.7	34	16.7	18.3
1949	9.9	11.7	28.8	32	15.7	16.7
1950	13.1	11.6	11.4	29.8	14.5	15.8
1951	11.1	12.5	25.2	29.6	14.5	15.5
1952	9.2	11.3	24.9	27.6	14.6	15.3

INFANT MORTALITY.

Prematurity	1 hour
Prematurity, Peritonitis	4 days
Atelectasis	2 hours
Atelectasis	2 hours
Congenital Cranial deformity	1 hour
Anencaphaly	2 days
Broncho Pneumonia	4 months
Broncho Pneumonia	4 months
Broncho Pneumonia, Congential Heart Lesion	4 months

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The table on page 13 gives the number and age groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Cases requiring hospital treatment and isolation are removed to the Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Walkergate. This hospital is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE.

Appended is a summary of Bacteriological reports received from the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newcastle General Hospital, on specimens submitted by local medical practitioners and by the Health Department.

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Throat swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	4	9	13
Throat swabs for Diphtheria ..	7	8	15
Specimens of Faeces for pathogenic organisms	3	24	27
Specimens of sputum for Tuberculosis	6	22	28
Specimens of urine for organisms ..	1	1	2
Specimen of pus from sinus.. ..	—	2	2
Specimen of urine for Tuberculosis	—	1	1
	21	67	88

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Table of cases notified in the Urban District during 1952, set out in age groups

	At all ages.	under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & upwds	D'ths	Hosp.
Scarlet Fever ..	50	—	1	1	2	8	28	6	2	1	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough..	78	7	8	7	8	14	32	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	331	4	22	24	49	47	175	8	2	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric-Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	25	1	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	11	3	5	4	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Erysipelas..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ..	5	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	4
Infect. Encephalitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	497	12	35	32	59	69	240	18	6	12	5	9	4	7

FOOD POISONING RETURN 1952.

Outbreaks due to identified agents :—

Total outbreaks .. Nil. Total cases .. Nil.

Outbreaks due to :—

(a) Chemical poisons	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(b) Salmonella	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin)	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(d) Cl. botulinum..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(e) Other Bacteria	..	..	..	..	Nil.

Outbreaks of undiscovered cause :—

Total outbreaks .. Nil. Total cases .. Nil.

Single cases :—

Agent identified	Unknown cause	Total.
		Nil.

Number of deaths—Nil.

Food involved—Nil.

TABLE OF DIPHTHERIA NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS.

Year	No. of cases of Diphtheria	No. of Deaths.
1935	54	1
1936	39	—
1937	25	—
1938	27	2
1939	23	1
1940	8	1
1941	9	—
1942	10	1
1943	5	1
1944	12	1
1945	15	—
1946	5	—
1947	3	—
1948	3	—
1949	—	—
1950	1	1
1951	—	—
1952	1	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age periods	New Cases.		Non-respiratory		Deaths	
	Respiratory Male	Respiratory Female	Male	Female	Respiratory Male	Non-respiratory Female
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15 years ..	—	—	—	1	—	—
15-20 years ..	2	1 (1 I.T.)	1	—	—	—
20-25 years ..	2	8 (3 I.T.)	—	2	—	—
25-35 years ..	5 (1 I.T.)	5	—	1	—	—
35-45 years ..	3	1 (1 I.T.)	—	—	1	—
45-55 years ..	3	2 (1 I.T.)	—	1	—	—
55-65 years ..	1	—	—	1	—	—
65 and over ..	1	—	—	—	—	—
	17 (1 I.T.)	17 (6 I.T.)	1	6	2	1

I.T. Inward Transfer

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS.

Year	NEW CASES						DEATHS						No. ON REGISTER AT END OF YEAR.					
	Pulmonary			Non-pul-monary			Pulmonary			Non-pul-monary			Pulmonary			Non-pul-monary		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1941	11	2	13	1	4	5	5	3	8	1	2	3	31	25	57	12	13	25
1942	12	8	20	3	2	5	2	3	5	1	—	1	41	32	73	14	14	28
1943	10	6	16	1	8	9	9	5	14	—	1	1	45	38	83	14	21	35
1944	17	18	35	—	5	5	5	3	8	1	1	2	47	37	84	9	17	26
1945	17	10	27	3	6	9	9	4	10	—	1	1	51	39	90	10	22	32
1946	14	8	22	2	4	6	6	6	9	1	1	2	57	38	95	11	24	35
1947	11	7	18	1	4	5	5	5	10	1	1	2	52	36	88	10	24	34
1948	12	13	25	5	4	9	9	8	16	1	—	1	40	30	70	5	14	19
1949	22	17	39	2	1	3	3	4	7	—	—	—	55	38	93	6	14	20
1950	16	11	27	2	3	5	5	3	12	1	1	3	59	45	104	7	17	24
1951	22	9	31	2	2	4	4	1	5	1	1	2	74	47	121	9	14	23
1952	17	17	34	1	6	7	2	1	3	—	—	—	83	61	144	10	17	27

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER, 1952.

Quarter ended		No. of cases on register at commencement of Quarter		No. of cases notified for the first time		No. of cases removed from register		No. of cases remaining	
		Pul.	Non-pul.	Pul.	Non-pul.	Pul.	Non-pul.	Pul.	Non-pul.
31st Mar. 1952	Males	74	9	1	—	2	—	73	9
	Females	47	14	4	2	—	—	51	16
30th June "	Males	73	9	5	—	4	—	74	9
	Females	51	16	6	—	—	—	57	16
30th Sept "	Males	74	9	6	—	1	—	79	9
	Females	57	16	7	—	1	—	63	16
31st Dec. "	Males	79	9	5	2	1	1	83	10
	Females	63	16	—	3	2	2	61	17

GOSFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

DEAR DR. HOPPER,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district has a piped water supply provided by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. There are no common standpipes in the district, and practically all premises have an internal water supply.

I am again indebted to the Engineer of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company for supplying the following information relating to the bacteriological and chemical analysis of samples of water taken throughout the Company's area during the year under review.

Bacteriological Analysis.

Bacteriological analyses were made on 945 samples of filtered water and 99.9% were found to be free of Bact. Coli (type 1) per 100 ml. A further 339 samples taken from various parts of the area served by the Undertaking gave very satisfactory results.

Chemical Analysis.

Bi-monthly chemical analyses carried out by a firm of Consulting Chemists on samples drawn from consumers' taps proved that the high standard of the purity of water supplied by the Undertaking is being maintained.

DRAINAGE SYSTEMS AND DRAIN TESTING.

During the year a considerable amount of time was expended on the supervision of the lay-out of new drainage work, and also in connection with the reconstruction and repair of existing drains.

The number of choked drains dealt with by the Department was not as large as in previous years, although the complaints received in this connection, remained fairly high. A large number of householders again took advantage of the drain-cleansing service provided by the Department. This service has proved a boon to householders, as it ensures that choked drains are speedily and efficiently dealt with.

The following details will give some idea of the amount of work involved in this particular connection.

Number of enquiries made	..	..	223
Number of water tests applied	..	..	130
Number of smoke tests applied	..	..	14
New drainage constructed	..	..	1272 yards.
Drains repaired or reconstructed	..	..	26 yards.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse Collection.

The disastrous fire which occurred at the Council Yard during the early hours of July 14th gutted all the buildings occupied by the Health Department and resulted in a total loss. The loss included a fleet of vehicles, consisting of six refuse collecting vehicles, four trailers and one small van. Valuable equipment lost in the fire included a petrol pump, protective clothing, paper baling machines, drain clearing implements etc.

Despite the terrific handicap suffered by the Department the collection of refuse from all districts was in operation with only a few hours delay.

This achievement was due to the acquisition from a local haulage contractor of four 5-ton open-tippers. These were replaced three days after the fire by a fleet of four rear-loading refuse collecting vehicles on loan from the Cleansing Department of the City and County of Newcastle upon Tyne. An order placed with Messrs. Shelvoke & Drewry for four new 16/18 cubic yard Fore and Aft tipping refuse collecting vehicles was fulfilled during the month of November.

I would like to record my sincere appreciation of the praiseworthy efforts of neighbouring authorities who came to our aid, and in particular, to Mr. J. H. Cowan, Cleansing Director of the City and County of Newcastle upon Tyne, and to Mr. J. Corney, Senior Sanitary Inspector to Newburn U.D.C.

Refuse Disposal.

Throughout the year the main disposal point for the disposal of refuse was at Benton, situated in the Urban district of Longbenton, where approximately 7,500 tons of refuse from this district were disposed of. The tip is controlled by the Longbenton Council and 50% of the total cost appertaining thereto, is borne by this Authority.

Salvage Collection.

Our efforts in this connection continued with undiminished zeal and despite the acceptance by this Authority of a voluntary curtailment of waste paper supplied to the Board Mills, the tonnage for the financial year ended the 31st March, 1953, was 235 tons. This curtailment of supplies restricted our output to 4 tons per week.

Costing.

It was inevitable that the cost of the service for this financial year should show a marked increase. This cost increase was occasioned chiefly by the purchase of new vehicles and the hiring and garaging of other vehicles. Another factor to be taken into consideration was a reduction of approximately 50% in the price received for waste paper.

COST STATEMENT 1952-53.

Item	Particulars 1.	Collection 2.	Disposal 3.	Total 4.
1.	REVENUE ACCOUNT GROSS EXPENDITURE :—	£	£	£
	(i) Labour (see Note a.) ..	6,411	787	7,198
	(ii) Transport (see Note b.) ..	8,247	940	9,187
	(iii) Plant, equipment, land and Buildings ..	61	1,000	1,061
	(iv) Other items	2	37	39
	(v) Total Gross expenditure	14,721	2,764	17,485
2.	GROSS INCOME	127	2,257	2,384
3.	NET COST	14,594	507	15,101
4.	Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above) ..	4,650	—	4,650
	UNIT COSTS.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
5.	Gross cost per ton, labour only	15 4	1 11	17 3
6.	Gross cost per ton, transport only	19 9	2 3	22 0
7.	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	34 10	1 2	36 0
8.	Net cost per 1,000 population..	£ 595	£ 21	£ 616
9.	Net cost per 1,000 premises ..	1,827	63	1,890

Note (a) Including holiday and sick pay, bonus payments, all superannuation charges, employer's contributions to national insurance, workmen's compensation, and protective clothing and uniforms. "Labour" means all employees other than official staff, drivers and mechanics.

Note (b) Including running and maintenance costs, wages of drivers and mechanics, and all revenue charges, including loan charges on renewals, and on provision of new vehicles.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS.

10.	Area (statute acres) - land and inland water	1739 acres
11.	Population at 30th June, 1951	.. 24,500 persons
12.	Total refuse collected (tons) (Estimated)	8,366 tons
13.	Weights (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year)	.. .. 18.7 cwts.
14.	Number of premises from which refuse is collected	.. .. 7,990 premises
15.	Average haul (miles) by collection vehicle to disposal point	.. .. 4 miles
16.	Frequency of collection	.. .. Weekly
17.	Total refuse disposed of (tons)	.. 8,366 tons
18.	Methods of Disposal :—	
	Controlled tipping	.. .. 100%

Analysis of Income and Tonnage.

			Income (Included in Item 2)	Tonnage Collected.
			£	Tons.
Salvage :				
(a)	Kitchen Waste	.. ..	153	45
(b)	Scrap Metal	.. ..	16	3
(c)	Waste Paper	.. ..	2007	235

HOUSING.

The position at the end of the year regarding the declaration of clearance areas and redevelopment areas remained unaltered. It would appear that immediate action in this connection is again precluded by the task of providing homes for persons, who at the moment, are inadequately housed.

During the year, at the request of the Housing Sub-Committee, I carried out a survey in connection with applications for council houses from old-age pensioners. In the report thereon, which was submitted to the above sub-committee, I attempted to place the applicants in categories in accordance with their existing needs and circumstances.

TABULAR STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1952.

Houses erected during the year.

(a) By Local Authority	119
(b) By other Bodies or Persons	46

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	354
(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	161

2. Remedy of Defects without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers	65
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3. Action under Statutory Powers :—

(A) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal action	
(a) By owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
	1

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	43
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	

(a) By Owners	..	..	36	}	
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners			Nil.		
					36

(C) Proceedings under Section 11 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-------|------|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | .. | Nil. |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | .. .. | Nil. |
| (3) | Number of dwelling houses closed but not demolished (Housing Act, 1949, Sec. 3) | | Nil. |

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | | | |
|-----|---|---------|------|
| (1) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | .. .. . | Nil. |
| (2) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | .. .. | Nil. |

- | | | | |
|----|---|-------|---|
| 4. | Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above | | 1 |
|----|---|-------|---|

RODENT INFESTATION.

The number of complaints received in this connection was slightly less than in the previous year, although the amount of work entailed in investigation and subsequent revisits, was considerable.

Fifty-five complaints were received, and following investigation, it was found that fifty-one dwelling-houses and sixteen business premises were involved. The infestations, which in thirty-four cases were attributable to mice, and in thirty-three cases, to rats, were all found to be minor in character.

Poisons used in the treatment were Zinc Phosphide and Arsenious-Oxide with a bait-base of Sausage Rusk and Bread Mash respectively. Toward the latter end of the year, Warfarin, a new rodenticide, with a bait base of oatmeal was used with satisfactory results.

Sewer Maintenance Treatment.

In view of the comparatively small number of "prebait

and poison takes " resulting from previous treatments, the number of man-holes treated was reduced to approximately 10% of the total number of man-holes in the district.

Two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1953, details of which are set out below. The cost incurred in the carrying out of these treatments was £25, fifty per cent of which will rank for re-imbursement from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Treatment No.	No. of Man-holes Baited	Poison takes	
		Partial	Complete
1	134	11	Nil.
2	132	10	Nil.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

The number of premises dealt with under this heading showed a slight decrease upon the previous year, and in no instance was any serious infestation encountered.

A small number of enquiries were received in connection with the destruction of a general assortment of garden pests, the main enquiries being made in connection with the destruction of wasps' nests.

The work of disinfestation was again largely confined to the eradication of the cockroach.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Your Sanitary Officers were appointed authorised officers for the inspection of pet shops pursuant to Section 4 of the Pet Animals Act, 1951.

During the year, one application to keep a pet shop was received, and a licence was issued, and remained force, until the 31st December, 1952.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There are 107 registered factories in the district, 72 mechanical factories and 30 non-mechanical factories, and 5 other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority.

The following table gives in detail the number of visits

and notices served to remedy defects found in course of inspection of the various factories in the district :—

Factories	No. on Register.	No. of Inspections	Notices Served.
Mechanical ..	72	214	8
Non-mechanical..	30	55	2
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	5	2	1
Total	107	271	11

Particulars	Defects found	Defects remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector.
Want of Cleanliness	5	4	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :—			
(a) Insufficient	3	2	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8	5	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	1	—
(d) Other offences	2	1	—
Total	20	13	1

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

Milk Supply.

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Number of dealers licences issued to retail “ Tuberculin Tested ” milk 4

Number of supplementary licences issued to retail “ Tuberculin Tested ” milk.. .. 12

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Number of Dealers licences issued to retail “ Pasteurised ” milk 5

Number of Supplementary licences issued to retail “ Pasteurised ” milk	6
Number of Dealers licences issued to retail “ Steri- lised ” milk	14
Number of Supplementary licences issued to retail “ Sterilised ” milk	1

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Number of presons registered as Distributors of milk	25
Number of premises registered as Dairies	1

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

Grade	B. Tuberculosis			Methylene Blue			Phosphatase/ Turbidity		
	Negative	Positive	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Ungraded ..	6	2	8	11	6	17	64.7	—	—
Accredited ..	4	—	4	13	2	15	86.7	—	—
Tuberculin Tested	2	—	2	10	6	16	62.5	—	—
Tuberculin Tested (Farm bottled) ..	7	—	7	24	4	28	85.7	1	46
Pasteurised ..	—	—	—	46	—	46	100.0	—	6
Sterilised ..	—	—	—	6	—	6	100.0	—	—
TOTALS ..	19	2	21	110	18	128	86.0	—	—

It is pleasing to record that the percentage of satisfactory results, taken throughout the various grades of milk, continues to show improvement. One rather disconcerting feature of these results is the number of Tuberculin Tested milks failing to satisfy the Methylene Blue keeping quality test.

Twenty-one samples of milk were submitted for examination for tubercle bacilli, and two samples were found to be positive. One sample was from milk produced within the district, and one sample from milk produced outside the district.

Samples of Ice-Cream.

Ten samples of ice-cream, nine prewrapped and one "loose" were procured and submitted to the Methylene Blue Test. In each instance the Methylene blue was not decolourised at the end of $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours, and accordingly, each sample was placed in Provisional Grade 1.

The test affords a simple and practicable means for the routine grading of the bacterial cleanliness of ice-cream.

Food Premises.

All food premises within the district received the usual systematic inspection throughout the year.

Twenty-eight informal notices were served in connection with minor contraventions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the notices relating principally to the necessity for the cleaning and/or redecoration of wall surfaces etc. In no instance was any serious contravention encountered.

There are still eighteen food premises wherein a constant supply of hot water is not provided for the use of persons employed on the premises.

Registration of Food Premises.

During the year three applications were received for the registration of premises under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, in respect of the sale of ice-cream. The premises were duly registered, bringing the total of registered premises in the district up to seventy-eight.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924-48.

The slaughtering of all food animals is still carried out in Ministry of Food abattoirs situated in the City & County of Newcastle upon Tyne. Regular attention was again given to the handling and conveyance of meat, which is transported from the City in an all-metal insulated vehicle.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 (Section 9).

(Sale of Unsound Food).

A case concerning the sale of a fruit malt loaf deemed to be unfit for human consumption, due to the finding of extraneous matter within the loaf, was reported to the Council. On the instruction of the Council legal proceedings were instituted, and a conviction obtained against the retailer concerned.

Unsound Food (voluntarily surrendered).

The following foodstuffs were examined following their voluntary surrender and condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Beef (English) ..	7 st.	Sausage	35 lbs.
Beef (Imported) ..	11 st.	Almonds	56 lbs.
Pork (Home-killed) ..	5 lbs.	Split Peas	22 lbs.
Fish	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ st.	Biscuits	135 lbs.
Tinned Goods ..	269 tins	Cooked Meat	20 lbs.
Flour	24 lbs.		

Adulteration of Food.

I am greatly indebted to Mr. Arlidge, Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department, Northumberland County Council for the short report on the sampling activities of his department within the Urban District of Gosforth.

The samples taken are summarised as follows :—

Name of Sample.	Number obtained
B.P. Official Preparations and Household Medicaments	1
Butter	3
Cake & Pudding Mixture	1
Cheese	1
Cereals	1
Coffee	1
Condiments, Sauces, Flavourings etc.	5
Confectionery	6
Ice-Cream	5
Jam, Preserves, etc.	4
Meat Products (Open & Tinned)	3
Milk	55
Paste (Meat & Fish)	3
Sausages, (Pork, Beef and Vienna)	8
Soft Drinks	5
Soups	2
Table Jelly	1
Vinegar	3
Wines	1
Miscellaneous	10
Miscellaneous (Unclassified samples)	10
TOTAL	119

Once again Mr. Arlidge is pleased to report that no offences, of sufficient seriousness to warrant the institution of legal proceedings, were detected. Four cautions were given in respect of sausages deficient in the meat content and/or which contained preservative, the presence of which was not declared to the purchaser. One milk retailer was cautioned for selling milk which contained a small quantity of added water. Mr. Arlidge states that it was not considered necessary to lay an Information in respect of this offence, as it was felt that the presence of the water was accidental and not due to wilful adulteration.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

The following tables present a summary of visits made by your Sanitary Officers, and sanitary improvements effected during the year.

TABLE 1.

Dwelling Houses (Nuisances etc.)	..	..	..	..	..	1466
Housing Applications ..	..	..	..	..	..	215
Accumulations ..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Cinemas, and Dance Halls ..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Ditches and Streams ..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Drainage Systems (Enquiries)	..	..	..	..	..	223
„ Smoke Tests..	..	..	..	..	..	14
„ Water Tests ..	..	..	..	..	..	130
Factories (Mechanical)..	..	..	..	..	..	214
„ (Non-Mechanical) ..	..	..	..	..	..	57
Infectious Diseases Enquiries	..	..	..	..	..	87
„ „ Disinfections ..	..	..	..	..	..	49
„ „ Revisits ..	..	..	..	..	..	62
National Assistance Act, 1948	..	..	..	..	..	40
Rodent Infestation—Rats ..	..	..	..	..	..	280
„ „ —Mice ..	..	..	..	..	..	167
Refuse Collection Supervision	..	..	..	..	..	233
Refuse Tips ..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Shops Act, 1934/50 ..	..	..	..	..	..	87
Verminous Premises —Inspected	..	..	..	..	..	18
„ „ —Treated ..	..	..	..	..	..	35
„ „ —Re-inspected ..	..	..	..	..	..	38
Workplaces, and offices ..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Food Premises ..	..	..	..	..	..	665
Miscellaneous ..	..	..	..	..	..	510
Total ..						4654

TABLE II.

Ceiling plaster repaired or renewed	18
Chimneys or chimney stacks repaired	4
Doors repaired, rehung or renewed	11
Eaves-gutters, cleaned out, repaired or renewed	26
External walls pointed	10
Fallspouts repaired or renewed	19
Firegrates repaired, reset or renewed	13
Floors repaired, ventilated etc.	15
Roofs repaired	4 ¹
Sashcords renewed	14
Sink-draining boards renewed/repared	6
Sinks (new) provided and fixed	2
Sink Waste pipes repaired or renewed	12
Stairs repaired, renewed or provided	3
Walls rendered internally	19
Wall plaster repaired or renewed	29
Water supplies repaired or renewed	13
Windows repaired ; made to open etc.	2
Yards and passages paved and drained	15
Choked drains cleansed	28
Dustbins provided	180
Gullies (additional) provided and connected to drains	1
W.C. basins renewed	17
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	13
W.C. structures repaired or renewed	9
Total ..	520

CONCLUSION.

It gives me very great pleasure once again to pay tribute to Mr. Oxley, my assistant, and to the clerical staff, for the staunch support I have received from them throughout the year, and for the excellent manner in which they have carried out the various duties assigned to them.

To Mr. Oliver, outside foreman, and to the outside staff, I offer my sincere thanks for the excellent manner in which they have carried out their duties.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE STENGER,

August, 1953.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

